

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

My name is Darcie Parton and I am the Administrative Manager of mica.net based out of Southfield, Michigan. Mica.Net was founded in 1994, and has customers throughout the United States.

Mica.Net offers many services and service levels to its customers, many of which our local phone company, Ameritech, does not offer. However, we also are forced to rely on Ameritech and other large competitors of its like, for some of the services, and these companies make it nearly impossible to obtain, install and retain our customers. The services and pricing are poor to the ISP's, yet the same service offerings that they sell directly to the end-user somehow get far better service and pricing. Additionally, Ameritech and the like often solicit our customers directly, once obtaining information from us in the quoting or order process. It is astounding.

There is much to say about the issues we are currently facing, and unfortunately, our company does not have the resources to fight the tariffs filed or the unethical business practices of Ameritech, and thus they get away with practices that are driving competition out of its market place(s).

A solution to some of the problems we, and other ISP's face, is for the FCC to make a good faith effort to uncover the discrimination (whether it is in pricing or provisioning) and put an end to it. Until the FCC has demonstrated that it is willing to do this for ISP's, any talk about lifting the rules for monopolies like Ameritech is premature.

I hope that you will take my comments seriously and into consideration. I am sending a copy of this letter to my Congressman as well and hope to receive some positive news or update as a result. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Darcie Parton
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Southfield, MI 48075